Jewry At The Crossroads

By Prof. Howard L. Adelson

The Fight In The United States

Two weeks ago I mentioned an incident that occurred at The Johns Hopkins University on Oct. 20th when the Progressive Students Union on that camps, an extremist, radical group, combined forces with the Palestine-Lebanon Committee of the Nov. 29th Coalition, a violent, pro-PLO terrorist group, to sponsor a forum entitled "The U.S.--Israeli Massacre of the Palestinian People" on the campus of that university. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has just published an assessment of the so-called November 29th Coalition, and Jews should be informed about the nature of the group that the radical students invited to the campus of a great university.

Before describing the Nov. 29th Coalition, however, it is perhaps appropriate that we fill in the details of what actually happened at The Johns Hopkins University. The meeting was scheduled and given publicity. It was to be addressed by a number of radicals and even by Dr. Hatem Husseini, Deputy PLO Observer at the U.N. Dr. Husseini, however, failed to appear at the meeting itself. The meeting was instead addressed by Mankekola Ngcobo, a representative of the African National Congress, which is itself a radical group. In addition the infamous, radical, extremist lawyer, Mark Lane, who in past years tried to portray himself as a simple progressive with "liberal" tendencies, vented his anti-Semitism. In a typical outburst he asked rhetorically why Jewish students who protested this meeting didn't migrate to Israel, if they felt so strongly the need for a Jewish state. We should, of course, remember how outraged Mark Lane becomes when his enemies suggest that he would be happier in Moscow or Leningrad. In any event Mark Lane stands convicted by his own words of parading the worst anti-Semitic canards that are used by the extremists whether of the Right or the Left. Mark Lane, however, was not a solitary anti-Israel voice on the program, for he was joined as well by Brian Becker, a non-entity who was introduced as the National Organizer of the Nov. 29th Coalition and who simply complained about the amount of money that Israel receives from the U.S. without mentioning the services that Israel provides for this country.

When knowledge of the proposed meeting had been widely disseminated the Jewish Students Association, led by its vigorous President Seth Kaye, was not unprepared. Their first step was to attempt an approach to the Assistant Dean of Students before the meeting with a request that the use of University facilities be denied for such a meeting. The Assistant Dean admitted that such a move was possible, but he refused to cancel the permission to use University facilities on the grounds that it might create a dangerous precedent. Failing in that first effort to block this event, the Jewish Students Association demonstrated before the forum began outside of the place of the meeting and sent some members into the meeting to ask questions, to display banners and placards, and to give voice to a pro-Israel position. The security forces employed by The Johs Hopkins University apparently did little to interfer with the activities of the Jewish students, but a strong-arm squad from the Nov. 29th Coalitin, attempted to keep the Jewish students out of the meeting and tried to eject some of the protesters. The Nov. 29th Coalition, of course, had no right to take any action with regard to students of the University. When violence erupted Seth Kaye made an immediate successful appeal to the Student Council, which happened to be meeting at the time. The report of the violence was immediately recognized by the Student Council as improper, particularly because it involved bringing an outside strong-arm squad on to the campus. As a result of the appeal to the Student Council by Seth Kaye that body recommended that the charter of the Progressive Student Union should be withdrawn.

It is quite clear that the meeting was intended as a propaganda event against Israel. At one point during the evening Mark Lane answered a question posed by a Jewish student about the one-sided nature of the presentation by saying that he had been unable to find a Jew to debate him. Immediately the same Jewish

student rose to decalre himself willing to undertake that task. The student was immediately surrounded by the University Security people and escorted from the meeting room. It was obviously not a free discussion.

Seth Kaye and the Jewish Student Association have proven once again that the Jewish students at The Johns Hopkins University can be counted upon to defend Jewish causes and honor. They are, however, involved in a constant struggle. The student newspaper, the Hopkins News-Letter of Oct. 22nd, reported the incident fully, but the editors tried to apportion the blame equally between the two sides in their editorial. They condemned the Jewish Students Association for supposedly attempting to disrupt what was purportedly a peaceful meeting. At the same time they deplored the fact that the "security force" was composed at least in part of "members of the Nov. 29th Coalition" who "were much too eager to resort to physical violence." The student editors apparently saw nothing wrong in the involvement of outside groups as sponsors of a student forum, but they argued instead for the right of all groups, no matter how offensive their point of view, to address the students. The conclusion of the editorial was that the Student Council had acted hastily and with insufficient information and consideration when it called for the revocation of the Progressive Student Union charter. The argument of the student paper, of course, would lead to making the campus available to the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, and other such groups. It is evident that the editors of the student paper do not understand that academic freedom means the right of a professor to advocate doctrines at variance with the views of his colleagues in his lectures. It does not involve the university making its facilities available to various hate groups.

The Nov. 29th Coalition, it

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